

STARS REALIGNED

Last year was defined by a war for talent that reached all levels of the legal industry, and it was on full display in the lateral market. From star partners to significant groups making the leap to new law firms, 2021 was full of big bets on major talent. In some cases, that meant spinning off from an Am Law 200 powerhouse to form a new firm altogether, and in some cases it meant a reshuffling of the decks among the most powerful and profitable firms in the world. These are the 25 moves that left the biggest imprint on the industry in 2021.

IAN CONNER

From U.S. Federal Trade Commission ...> To Latham & Watkins



Former Federal Trade Commission Bureau of Competition director Ian Conner joined Latham & Watkins, rather than returning to his former firm, Kirkland & Ellis.

Conner first joined the FTC in 2017 as deputy director before rising to the role of director in late 2019, just months before the onset of the pandemic. He joined Latham's Washington, D.C., office as a partner.

Asked why he joined Latham rather than rejoining Kirkland, Conner pointed to Latham's global antitrust platform, which he said is best suited to the future of his practice, given increased enforcement efforts not just from the European Union but from the post-Brexit Competition and Markets Authority in the United Kingdom as well as Asian regulators.

"It is increasingly necessary to have a coordinated platform to offer antitrust clients as complexity increases and the number of regulators increases," Conner said.